

Statistics out of the closet

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IGeLU Conference 2010

The context

- New Vice Chancellor
 - Savings required across the university
 - Closer scrutiny of spending decisions
 - Opportunity to examine workflows and processes
 - Staff restructure
- Now following the change of government we are anticipating cuts of at least 5% per year over the next 5 years, and planning for more.

Focus on what is important

- Contract and negotiation team established
 - Review existing contracts
 - Ensure that suppliers are delivering what they promised
 - New contracts to have more explicit requirements, and be more measurable
 - Supply times, customer care, levels of processing
 - Outsourcing
 - Provide statistics in support of these changes

Drivers

- Materials budget review
 - Buying the right resources
- Lack of physical space
 - Retention policy
 - Uncertainty about remote store
- Fewer staff and re-deployment
 - Concentrating on adding value

Challenges

- Finding a way of matching records from different databases
 - Ustat and Verde do not always match if there is a local record
 - Differing COUNTER formats
- Relating cost data to usage data
 - Cost per hit/search
 - Value for money
 - Voyager fund structure/ Circulation archive

Obstacles & difficulties

- Historical data incomplete
 - Purging
 - Temporary records
 - Deletions files
- Definitions
- Divisions & duplication by format
 - Print and/or electronic
- Standing orders

Quotes

- Statistics are like bikinis. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital. [Aaron Levenstein](#)
- Definition of Statistics: The science of producing unreliable facts from reliable figures. [Evan Esar](#)
- He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp posts - for support rather than for illumination. [Andrew Lang](#)

Thank you

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